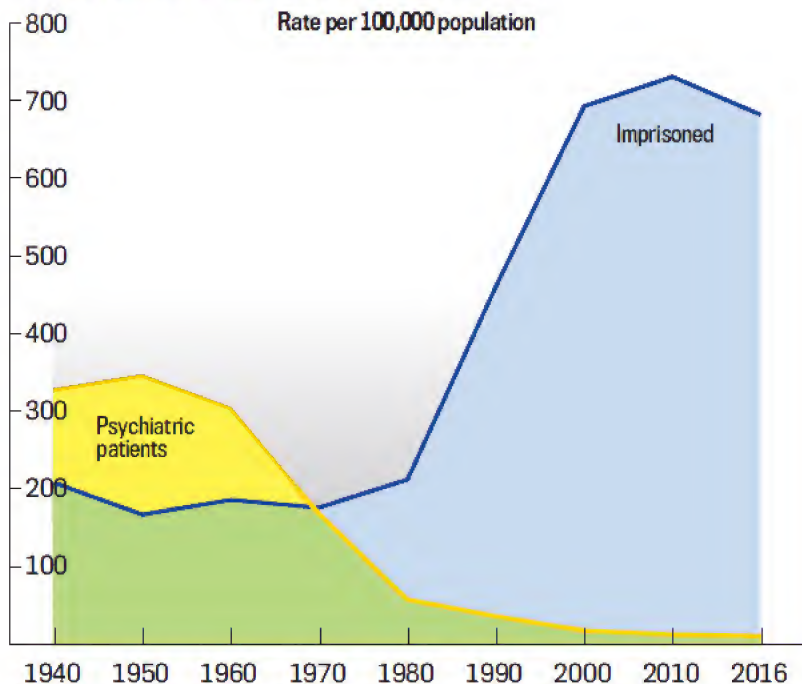


# How U.S. prisons absorbed mentally ill

As America's rate of public psychiatric hospital patients declined after 1950 with the closing of institutions, the nation's incarceration rate began to climb. It reflected in part how the prison system absorbed some of the released mentally ill patients who committed crimes.



Note: Data on inmates is from U.S. Bureau of Justice statistics. Psychiatric bed data is from a 50-state survey of government sources.

Source: Prison Policy Initiative

The Detroit News